

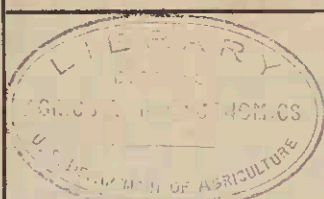
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FOR USE
IN WEEK
BEGINNING
OCT. 21, 1918.

HELPING THE MEAT AND MILK SUPPLY.

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

SELECT GOOD BREEDING SOWS.



Permanent Pasture and a Little Grain Maintains the Brood Sow Cheaply and Well.

Plan for Profitable Spring Litters.

Begin in Fall by Selecting Long, Deep Sows with Plenty of Vitality and Give Them Good Care—Which Includes Full Rations—Throughout the Winter.

Sensible hog management saves only the most desirable sows for permanent use in the breeding herd, according to the specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, who are striving to effect maximum pork production under economical methods. The methods of many hog raisers are out of joint with the almanac. That is to say, many farmers waste valuable time, when it is likely to be too late, in trying to cure hog ailments, although they could have readily prevented these troubles by sensible and seasonable management. The skater who sharpens his blades after spring has come in order to enjoy the ice of the past winter is of the same pattern as the hog raiser who in the spring wishes that he had practiced timely management during the previous period of cold weather.

The Federal Department advises that all breeders should exercise conscientious and painstaking care in the

age, shorts or middlings, oil meal and ground alfalfa hay with the corn. It is hoped that fish meal may also become available soon for the use of hog growers, as this material has been demonstrated as useful as tankage for pork production. Under existent freight conditions, it would be impracticable to attempt the distribution of fish meal among the Central Western hog producers, although it can be used successfully in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast States.

USE OF ALFALFA.

Careful test by the Department of Agriculture indicates the value of grinding alfalfa hay, soaking it for 24 hours in barrels containing hot water, adding a little salt and possibly one-half bushel or more of shorts to a barrel of feed and giving the mixture to the sows in the form of a thick slop. It is suggested that the preferable time for feeding this slop is each morning, so that during the balance of the day the animals can rustle about for corn. Good alfalfa hay should also be available in convenient racks so that the sows can eat this roughage as they please.

One of the most important matters, and undoubtedly the one which is most commonly neglected in the proper handling of hogs, is to supply the porkers with an abundance of clean, pure drinking water. For this purpose some automatic watering device or home-made convenience of this nature should provide the hogs constantly with water. Without question, water is the cheapest material used in pork production and the importance of having it supplied in quantity and of proper quality can not be overestimated. Hogs should not be forced to drink from an icy tank, nor should they be provided with only a limited supply once or twice a day. A tank heater or a properly protected gravity system will control the former evil, while a permanent and dependable supply of water will overcome the latter.

AMERICAN FARMER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

At present the stupendous task of filling the world's pork barrel falls to the lot of the American farmer. To accomplish this result is possible only through a markedly increased production. According to the opinion of the Department officials there is no more patriotic duty that the American hog grower can perform than to accord special and undivided attention to every little detail of hog management during the coming winter and spring so that the sows may be properly attended to, favoring maximum litters which may be grown to maturity with a minimum of mortality. By wisely selecting the brood sows for the pig crop of next spring and by properly caring for the animals during the winter and seeing to it that every pig is saved at farrowing time, the American hog raisers will not only be performing valuable services for this country and the Allies, but they also will be laying up funds for investment in Liberty Loans and War Savings Stamps.

BEGIN FEEDING SILAGE NOW.

Much feed is wasted by failure to finish packing the silo properly after filling. The top should be leveled off, tramped thoroughly, and then well soaked. A layer of dry stalks run through the cutter will also help to keep the top of the silage from spoiling. It is better, perhaps, to commence feeding silage as soon as filling is completed, in which case there is no waste. If that is done the tendency of cows to lessen milk production because of scanty feed is checked. Don't wait until winter to feed silage; do it now.

This pig loves exercise and needs it almost as much as he needs food. No piggery is fit for the purpose unless it admits direct sunshine onto the floor of every pen at the time the pigs are farrowed, furnishes plenty of fresh air, and provides for exercise in the open air. Dryness, sunshine, warmth, fresh air, freedom from drafts, and exercise are of primary importance in raising pigs. These secured, the battle is half won. In putting up buildings the six requirements just mentioned must be kept constantly in mind; not one can be neglected.

selection of sows for permanent maintenance in the breeding herd. The animals should be of good length, full depth, showing plenty of vitality as well as the inclination to take sufficient exercise. They should not be skimped on starvation rations or half-feeds, but rather should receive a full allowance, which, broadly interpreted, means that the porkers receive about all that they will eat with respect to economical methods of pork production.

GREEN FOODS ESSENTIAL.

It is highly desirable that the sows to be bred in the fall should have access to green forage crops as long as there are any such materials available. The sow realizes immeasurable benefit from rustling about for the bulk of her feed. The method insures the female porker of the exercise which is necessary to maintain her in the condition which favors good litters of pigs. As, on many hog farms relatively little green feed is available during the pig-raising periods, it is imperative that the individual farmer provide plenty of food in balanced mixture in addition to making it necessary for the sows to exercise in the procuring of this food. Many successful farmers maintain that during the winter season they feed their brood sows all the corn that the animals will eat. Some fallacy may be apparent in this statement unless the reader is thoroughly familiar with the conditions under which this plentiful use of grain is practiced.

The general plan of feeding corn is to scatter it in the ear over the fields where the sows may hustle after it. It is hard work to scoop corn from a wagon which is driven through the field. A much easier and more practical plan is to fill the manure spreader with the ear corn and to adjust the machine so that the grain will be well scattered. This process may possibly look wasteful, especially in view of the current price of corn, but if the feeder will be careful and not distribute an excessive quantity, he will find that the hogs will make efficient use of all of this grain.

The Department specialists recommend the supplementary use of tank-